

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in opposition of the closing of Eleanor Slater Hospital. I have been an employee at Eleanor Slater for the past 23 years. Many of the patients who reside at this hospital have been there for years and it has become their home. The staff have become like family to them, and it is all they know. The connections that have occurred between the patients and staff are like no other that I have seen at other hospital settings. Many of these patients are very difficult patients who in a regular hospital setting do very poorly and often get placed in more restrictive settings than they would while at Eleanor Slater Hospital. We deal with the most difficult of patients who are often suffering from severe psychiatric disorders and they require the structure that is provided at Eleanor Slater. We often find that when patients are moved from Eleanor Slater to another setting, they do very poorly and often return back to Eleanor Slater or unfortunately end up passing away. For patients who have no family and have series mental, emotional, and physical disabilities moving them to another facility would be detrimental to their wellbeing. Some of the patients are court committed and have been found to require more extensive care due to their mental disabilities. Not only would it be detrimental to the patients, but it could also present an issue to the community if they are allowed to be placed in less restrictive settings.

I strongly oppose closing Eleanor Slater Hospital and ask that you consider the well being of the patients before making a decision.

Sincerely

Linda Wunderler RN